

MARTIN,
TENNESSEE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT MARTIN
THE PACER

75
YEARS
FALL 1928 - FALL 2003

Pacer Briefs

■ Opinions ■ News ■ Features ■ Sports



STEPHEN YEARGIN / The Pacer

A piece of a transformer at the corner of Hannings Lane and Mt. Pelia sits in the road while Officer Cecil Clements reroutes traffic.

Power outage hits campus

Thursday evening began like any other on the UT Martin campus, but a power outage gave everyone a change of scenery. Some students were in the computer labs browsing the internet, some were in the library putting in some study time, while others were strolling the lobbies of the dorms, lingering in the University Center, or catching the final minutes of the New Jersey Nets and New York Knicks game. Then, all of a sudden, the power went out.

The first time it happened it took a few seconds and came back on. Then just as everyone started back doing whatever they doing the power went out again. Students made their way outside where it was pitch black. At first some students thought that a thunderstorm was the cause of the power outage but it was not.

According to Safety and Security the cause behind the power outage was due to a transformer that blew. The power was out for about forty minutes.

Samuel Stentson, a Computer Science major from Halls, Tenn., was in the library typing a research paper when the power went out. "At first I thought a lighting storm was the cause of the blackout until I packed my bag up and went outside," Stentson says. "This could not have happened at a worse time."

The Pacer made contact with the Weakley County Municipal Electric Systems to see what caused the transformer to explode. The operator said that they were not allowed to make comments to the media. No one with speaking privileges was available by press time.

— Christopher Sanback, Staff Writer

■ **No more "Big Orange Screw"**

The Pacer wants our new president to focus less attention on UT Knoxville and more on the entire system.

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■ **Austin Peay to be buried**

A trench on the UTM farm will be the final resting place for the demolished Austin Peay hall.





Story on Page 4

■ **'Enlightenment' in store Friday**

The foreign film series draws to a close with "Guaranteed Enlightenment" today.

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WEATHER FORECAST

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
			
T-storms	T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Sunny
High 74 Low 62	High 73 Low 50	High 67 Low 48	High 73 Low 49

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PACER F.Y.I.

Applications for
UTM Student Publications
are due April 29

The Spirit
UTM Yearbook

The Pacer
Student Newspaper

<http://pacer.utm.edu/jobs/>

Graphic: VICTORIA HUGHES / The Pacer

John Petersen: 23rd UT president

Board of Trustees unanimously approves new system president

University Relations

Dr. John Petersen is the University of Tennessee's new president. Petersen, provost and executive vice president at the University of Connecticut, was elected Wednesday by the university's Board of Trustees after an unprecedented search involving broad input and candidate interviews broadcast over the Internet.

Petersen is expected to be on the job July 1.

"Under Dr. Petersen's leadership, UT can renew its mission and set its sights on a successful future," Governor Phil Bredesen, who is chairman of the board, said. "In launching the search process, I was

convinced an open process would restore confidence and attract the right caliber of candidates.

"I commend the presidential search committee and the advisory council for a job well done," Bredesen said.

When the search began last fall, the governor called for an open process. That challenge is reflected in the guiding principles of the search.

The principles state that the search would be conducted in an open, fair and competitive manner. Minorities and women were to be affirmatively sought for inclusion in the candidate pool.

Further, no candidate was to be considered by the search committee

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"Higher education institutions are about helping students achieve their dreams"

— John Petersen
23rd President of UT



Photo: University Relations

Dr. John Petersen and his wife, Carol, don UTM hats during a reception on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus.

Campus Crime

Campus crime statistics released

Stephen Yeargin
Executive Editor

Despite significant drops in security personnel, UTM kept narcotics crime in check, while losing ground in fighting larceny/theft crimes in 2003.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation released its annual report title "Crime on Campus" earlier this month. The report compares various crime statistics with other colleges and universities.

Prepared by the UTM Department of Public Safety and submitted to TBI, the report covers such areas as homicide, sex offenses and robbery, among others.

DPS reported an 18-member drop in the number of security personnel on campus, down from 34 to 16.

Drug/narcotic violations saw the steepest drop, down 22 offenses from 2002. The section included 16 itemized violations (down 14) and 10 drug equipment specific violations (down eight).

Larceny/theft offenses gained 17 cases over the previous year. There were 27 instances of "theft of motor vehicle parts/accessories," eight more than in 2002. Also, there were 28 instances of "theft from building," up 3 from the previous year. Out of all larceny/theft cases, only 13.5 percent had been closed, a 9.3 percent decrease.

In other news:

- DPS reported no homicide, kidnapping, stolen property or forcible sex offenses in 2003.
- There were 11 disorderly conduct violations, up eight from 2002.
- There were six cases of drunkenness and two DUI offenses last year.

You've got 10 years of e-mail
Special Report: Lisa Ashby, Opinions Editor

Electronic mail ... how would UTM survive without it? To access an entire world of information at one's fingertips is an everyday occurrence at UTM, but this access came only a short decade ago. In the spring of 1994, the UTM Computer Center gave students, faculty and staff something to improve communication across the campus.

The new era came in the mid 1980s, when UTM linked with the UT Knoxville VAX account. This first, and very limited, access was only available to the computer center staff and a few select faculty.

The first access students had came through McGill University System for Interactive Computing, or M.U.S.I.C. It was only open to professors who needed e-mail for their classes and the students enrolled in the classes. Though some departments, such as English, took advantage of the new things e-mail had to offer, it was first widely used by those enrolled in Computer Science courses.

In late 1993, the first fiber optic cables were installed at UTM. By 1994, the first MARS box, IBM RS6000, was installed. With the installation of the MARS box, each student was given his or her own e-mail account for personal and academic use. This gave way to the mars accounts that students use today.

Just as with every other form of technology to come along, this early age of e-mail had its advantages and disadvantages. While disadvantages range from lack of personal contact to being open to miscommunication, Terry Lewis, assistant director of Computer Services, is all for e-mail.

"How did we do without it? Back then, it took a while to get everyone on campus accustomed to e-mail," Lewis said. "Life is better with e-mail because it has increased productivity. If there are questions, we can get answers immediately."

Mike Abney, assistant director of Computer Services, sees hardly any downside to e-mail.

"E-mail has improved communications in every

aspect. It helps save money that would be lost with postage and phone calls," he said.

Students have learned that e-mail is a vital tool in education. It allows ways to contact fellow students and professors to help with homework.

"The advantage is that it helps to increase the amount of communication between students and professors," said Matthew Muehlberger, a senior communications major from Leesburg, Va. "The disadvantage is that e-mails are not personal and sometimes can be misleading in wording of any document."

Ten years ago, e-mail became the fastest form of communication. Many UTM professors check e-mail regularly in between classes. Because of today's busy, always-on-the-go society, e-mail is sometimes a quicker alternative to asking questions about homework outside of class.

"The only benefits from not having email that I can think of would be that viruses and worms would not be sent and I might have a half-hour or so freed up during the day-time I usually spend writing and responding to email," said Dr. Daniel Nappo, an assistant professor in the Modern Foreign Languages Department.

"Generally, though, I think we would be at a great disadvantage if we didn't have it, because we would lose a fast and inexpensive means of communication. I remember the days of letters and phone calls; things did not get done as quickly."

Students are given MARS accounts when first enrolled at UTM. Each account may be used until graduation, but the account is disabled about two weeks of the first semester a student is not enrolled, and the account is deleted soon after. "If you have e-mail in your account, take your mail with you before you graduate," said Bruce Harrison, IT Administrator III of Computer Services.

Where will UTM be in 10 years on the information superhighway? Only time will tell.

UTM considers changes to add/drop policy

Staff Reports

Now that UTM has shortened its calendar by one week per semester, the next issue to be addressed concerns policies governing add/drop dates and possible fees attached to those dates.

Under the previous calendar, students were allowed to drop during the first week of the semester with no record of the drop on a student's transcript, and were allowed to drop through the ninth week with a grade of W (withdrawal). Drops after the ninth week had to be processed and verified under specific conditions set forth in the catalog, such as serious illness or injury, serious personal or family problems, and changes/conflicts with work and class schedules.

Because of the shorter calendar, the Faculty Senate heard a proposal at its Tuesday, April 20, meeting to shorten the overall drop period to eight

Academics

weeks. For those who seek to drop a class after eight weeks, they would have to gain approval from the course instructor as well as their advisers and the registrar. The proposal was thoroughly discussed, then sent back to the Instruction Committee for more work.

Meanwhile, the Instruction Committee has asked the Ad Hoc Committee to study the add/drop issue. At its meeting April 22, the Ad Hoc Committee discussed shortening the period to add classes, meaning that students would be able to drop one class and add another only within the first three days of the semester, or immediately after the first meeting of any given course.

No decisions have been made, but committee members will study the issue and make a recommendation to the Instruction Committee. Upon

approval of that committee, the recommendation would then go to the full Senate for discussion and a vote.

UTM is not alone in considering changes to its add/drop policies. According to an April 22 story in The Sidelines, the student newspaper at Middle Tennessee State University, all students at Tennessee Board of Regents schools will now have only two weeks to drop a class without receiving a grade for the class, as opposed to four weeks under the previous TBR common calendar.

The newspaper quoted Connie Pimentel, the assistant director of the MTSU scheduling center, as saying that the reason for the new deadline is partly because of the Tennessee HOPE (lottery) Scholarships. Students must attempt 24 credit hours per academic year and earn at least a 2.75 GPA to keep their scholarships.

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